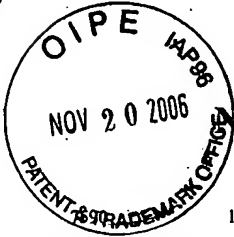




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11/07/2006

Thomas R. FitzGerald, Esq.
Suite 210
16 E. Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614-1803

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

EXAMINER

EWALD, MARIA VERONICA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1722

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2006

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,690	03/24/2004	Seon Tae Kim	20010.000600/WA-411/US	4404

TITLE OF INVENTION: EXPANSION TUBE HAVING EXPANSION SLITS AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING HEAT SHRINKABLE TUBE HAVING THE EXPANSION TUBE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	02/07/2007

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:**I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.**

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.
- B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

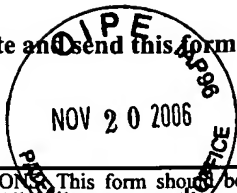
II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885



INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All other correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless contrary to the Patent or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

7590

11/07/2006

Thomas R. FitzGerald, Esq.
 Suite 210
 16 E. Main Street
 Rochester, NY 14614-1803

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,690	03/24/2004	Seon Tae Kim	20010.000600/WA-411/US	4404

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APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$0	\$1700	02/07/2007

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
EWALD, MARIA VERONICA	1722	425-392000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
 (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/807,690	03/24/2004	Seon Tae Kim	20010.000600/WA-411/US	4404

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EXAMINER

EWALD, MARIA VERONICA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1722

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2006

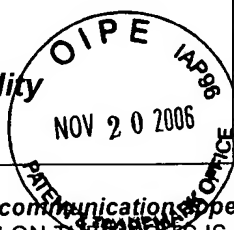
Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 376 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 376 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/807,690

Examiner

Maria Veronica D. Ewald

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Art Unit

1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/14/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-7,9,12-15 and 17-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 – 2, 5 – 7, 9, 12 – 15, 17 – 22 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant has amended claim 1 to state that the plurality of expansion slits have lengths gradually increased along a direction to which the heat shrinkable tube is manufactured, wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits has a larger length in a range of 2.5 times to 5 times than the width thereof in an expansion section and a larger length in a range of 3.5 times to 10 times than the width thereof in a cooling section. Applicant persuasively argued that the closest prior art references of Reifenhauser (U.S. 3,990,828) and Mahoney, et al. (U.S. 6,863,856) both fail to teach expansion tubes wherein the expansion slits have lengths gradually increased along a direction to which the heat shrinkable tube is manufactured. Examiner agrees. With respect to the reference of Reifenhauser, Reifenhauser teaches a plurality of equally-sized, angularly equispaced and longitudinally extending slits; however, the slits *do not have lengths gradually increased along a direction to which the heat shrinkable tube is manufactured*. With respect to the reference of Mahoney, et al., Mahoney, et al. teach an expansion tube with equally-spaced, longitudinal slits that can be sized according to the user's needs, as shorter rectangular slits, longer slits or as holes; however, the slits are equally-sized along the tube's periphery and *do not have lengths gradually increased along a direction to which the heat shrinkable tube is manufactured*.

With respect to independent claim 12, Applicant has amended claim 12 to state that the interval of the adjacent left and right expansion slits is the width or less of each

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expansion slit with respect to the inner peripheral surface of the expansion tube.

Furthermore, Applicant has argued that Aoshima, Lehtinen and Mahoney, et al. do not teach that there are cooling nozzles transporting water from the cooling water pump to the expansion tube and that all three references do not teach that the gap between slits is the width or less of the expansion slit. Examiner agrees. With respect to the reference of Aoshima (U.S. 5,071,886), Aoshima teaches a cooling bath but is silent with respect to a cooling water pump and cooling nozzles. With respect to the reference of Lehtinen (U.S. 5,516,270), *Lehtinen teach an expansion tube with a series of cooling water channels or slits on the inner peripheral surface of the tube, which is surrounded by a sleeve, the outer periphery of which contains grooves configured circumferentially.*

These circumferential grooves form a lubricating channel system. In addition, Lehtinen does not teach that the cooling water is circulated or delivered to the tube via cooling nozzles, the tube's channels circulate the water and do not utilize any cooling nozzles.

Lehtinen also does not teach that the expansion slits on the inner periphery are spaced such that the width between them is less than or equal to the slit width. With respect to the reference of Mahoney, et al., Mahoney, et al. also do not teach that the width between the expansion slits is less than or equal to the slit width, with respect to the inner peripheral surface of the expansion tube.

Thus, prior art fails to teach the following: an expansion tube having a plurality of expansion slits formed along a longitudinal direction on the outer peripheral surface thereof, each of the expansion slits having a predetermined width and a relatively larger length than the predetermined width; wherein the plurality of expansion slits have

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lengths gradually increased along a direction to which the heat shrinkable tube is manufactured; and wherein each of the plurality of expansion slits has a larger length in a range of 2.5 times to 5 times than the width thereof in an expansion section and a larger length in a range of 3.5 times to 10 times than the width thereof in a cooling section. Furthermore, prior art fails to teach: an apparatus for manufacturing a heat shrinkable tube, having an expansion tube, comprising: a denser that is adapted to receive a heat shrinkable tube, while preventing the heat shrinkable tube from being loose; dry heating rolls that are adapted to heat the heat shrinkable tube ejected from the denser; an expansion chamber that is adapted to expand the heat shrinkable tube ejected from the dry heating rolls; a caterpillar that is adapted to have the heat shrinkable tube constant in diameter; and a bobbin that is adapted to wind the heat shrinkable tube ejected from the caterpillar, wherein the expansion chamber comprises the expansion tube in which the heat shrinkable tube is expanded to predetermined radius, a vacuum pump for discharging the air in the expansion tube, a cooling water pump for supplying cooling water to the expansion tube, a plurality of cooling water nozzles for spraying cooling water supplied from the cooling water pump, and a vacuum suction hole disposed between the wall surface of a body of the expansion chamber and the vacuum pump, for discharging the air in the expansion tube to the outside of the expansion chamber, and wherein the expansion tube has a plurality of expansion slits formed on the outer peripheral surface thereof along a longitudinal direction, each of the expansion slits having a predetermined width and a relatively larger length than the predetermined width; wherein an interval of the adjacent left and right expansion slits is

Art Unit: 1722

the width or less of each expansion slit with respect to the inner peripheral surface of the expansion tube.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maria Veronica D. Ewald whose telephone number is 571-272-8519. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571-272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a


Application/Control Number: 10/807,690

Page 6

Art Unit: 1722

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MVE


JOSEPH S. DEL SOLE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
10/24/06



NOTICE OF DRAFTSPERSON'S PATENT DRAWING REVIEW

The drawing(s) filed (insert date) 03/24/2004 are:

- A. ☒ approved by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152.
B. ☐ objected to by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152 for the reasons indicated below. Corrected drawings are required.

1. DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(a): Acceptable categories of drawings: Black ink or Color (3 sets required).
___ Color drawings are not acceptable until petition is granted. Fig(s) _____
___ Pencil and non black ink not permitted. Fig(s) _____

2. PHOTOGRAPHS. 37 CFR 1.84(b)
___ One (1) full-tone set is required. Fig(s) _____
___ Photographs may not be mounted. 37 CFR 1.84(e)
___ Photographs must meet paper size requirements of 37 CFR 1.84(f). Fig(s) _____
___ Poor quality (half-tone). Fig(s) _____

3. TYPE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(c)
___ Paper not flexible, strong, white, and durable. Fig(s) _____
___ Erasures, alterations, overwritings, interlineations, folds, copy machine marks not accepted. Fig(s) _____

4. SIZE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(f): Acceptable sizes:

21.0 cm by 29.7 cm (DIN size A4) or
21.6 cm by 27.9 cm (8 1/2 x 11 inches)
___ All drawing sheets not the same size. Sheet(s) _____

___ Drawings sheets not an acceptable size. Fig(s) _____

5. MARGINS. 37 CFR 1.84(g): Acceptable margins:
Top 2.5 cm Left 2.5 cm Right 1.5 cm Bottom 1.0 cm
___ Margins not acceptable. Fig(s) _____

___ Top (T) ___ Left (L)
___ Right (R) ___ Bottom (B)

6. VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(h)

REMINDER: Specification may require revision to correspond to drawing changes, e.g., if Fig. 1 is changed to Fig. 1A, Fig. 1B and Fig. 1C, etc., the specification, at the Brief Description of the Drawings, must likewise be changed.

___ Views not labeled separately or properly. Fig(s) _____

7. SECTIONAL VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(h)(3)

___ Sectional designation should be noted with Arabic or Roman numbers. Fig(s) _____

8. ARRANGEMENT OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(i)
___ Words do not appear on a horizontal, left-to-right fashion when page is either upright or turned so that the top becomes the right side, except for graphs. Fig(s) _____

9. SCALE. 37 CFR 1.84(k)
___ Scale not large enough to show mechanism without crowding when drawing is reduced in size to two-thirds in reproduction. Fig(s) _____

10. CHARACTER OF LINES, NUMBERS, & LETTERS. 37 CFR 1.84(l)

___ Lines, numbers & letters not uniformly thick and well defined, clean, durable, and black (poor line quality). Fig(s) _____

11. SHADING. 37 CFR 1.84(m)

___ Solid black areas pale. Fig(s) _____
___ Solid black shading not permitted. Fig(s) _____

12. NUMBERS, LETTERS, & REFERENCE CHARACTERS. 37 CFR 1.84(p)

___ Numbers and reference characters not plain and legible. Fig(s) _____
___ Figure legends are poor. Fig(s) _____
___ Numbers and reference characters not oriented in the same direction as the view. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(1) Fig(s) _____

___ English alphabet not used. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(2) Fig(s) _____

___ Numbers, letters and reference characters must be at least 32 cm (1/8 inch) in height. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(3). Fig(s) _____

13. LEAD LINES. 37 CFR 1.84(q)

___ Lead lines missing. Fig(s) _____

14. NUMBERING OF SHEETS OF DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(t)

___ Sheets not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numbers beginning with number 1. Sheet(s) _____

15. NUMBERING OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(u)

___ Views not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numerals, beginning with number 1. Fig(s) _____

16. DESIGN DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.152

___ Surface shading shown not appropriate. Fig(s) _____
___ Solid black surface shading is not permitted except when used to represent the color black as well as color contrast. Fig(s) _____

COMMENTS:

Reviewer SON LAM

Date 10/25/2006

If you have questions, call (703) 305-8404.

Attachment to Paper No. _____

305-0333 (EXT. 133)

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